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Biodiversity Assessment Report

710 Mount Ridley Road, Mickleham, Victoria



Prepared for Glossop Town Planning

Report 25087, Version 1.0

January 2026

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Table of Contents

1	<u>Introduction.....</u>	<u>4</u>
1.1	Background and Planning Context.....	4
1.2	Study Area and Surrounding Context.....	4
2	<u>Methods.....</u>	<u>7</u>
2.1	Field Assessment.....	7
2.2	Nomenclature and Taxonomy.....	7
2.3	Biodiversity Assessments Under the Guidelines 2017.....	8
2.3.1	Assessment Pathways.....	8
2.3.2	Native Vegetation Offsets.....	9
2.4	Limitations.....	9
3	<u>Flora Results.....</u>	<u>10</u>
3.1	Description of Vegetation.....	10
3.2	Patches of Native Vegetation.....	12
3.3	Scattered Trees.....	14
3.4	Significant Flora Species.....	17
3.5	Determination of Listed Ecological Communities.....	18
4	<u>Fauna Results.....</u>	<u>18</u>
4.1	Habitat Quality Classification.....	18
4.1	Fauna Habitat within the study area.....	18
4.2	Significant Fauna Species.....	20
4.2.1	VBA Search Results.....	20
4.2.2	EPBC PMST Search Results.....	21
4.2.3	Notable Threatened Species.....	21
5	<u>Proposed Impacts to Native Vegetation</u>	<u>24</u>
5.1	Proposed removal of canopy trees.....	24
5.2	Proposed removal of patches	24
5.3	Offset Requirements.....	24
5.4	Avoidance and Minimisation Statement	24
6	<u>Discussion.....</u>	<u>25</u>
6.1	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).....	25
6.2	Environmental Effects Act 1978 (EE Act).....	25
6.3	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act).....	26
6.4	Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act).....	26

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6.5	Wildlife Act 1975 and Wildlife Regulations 2002.....	27
6.6	Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Guidelines 2025	27
6.7	Hume City Council Planning Scheme.....	28
6.7.1	Green Wedge Zone (GWZ).....	28
7	<u>Conclusion and Recommendations.....</u>	29
7.1	Native Vegetation Offsets	29
7.2	Permits.....	29
7.3	Threatened Flora, Fauna, and Ecological Communities.....	29
7.4	Land Management.....	29
	<u>References</u>	31
	<u>Appendix 1. Flora species recorded within the study area</u>	34
	<u>Appendix 2. Fauna species recorded within the study area.....</u>	36
	<u>Appendix 3. Threatened flora species recorded within 5km of the study area.....</u>	37
	<u>Appendix 4. Threatened fauna species recorded within 5km of the study area.....</u>	38
	<u>Appendix 5. PMST threatened flora search results</u>	39
	<u>Appendix 6. PMST threatened fauna search results</u>	41

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Version Control

Version	Responsibility	Name	Date	Signature
1.0	Field Assessment & Report Author	Alistair Smith	10 November 2025	
1.0	Review	Matthew Hatton	08 January 2026	
1.0	Amendments	Alistair Smith	27 January 2026	

Front cover image: The subject land located at 710 Mount Ridley Road, Mickleham.

Acknowledgements

Abzeco staff acknowledge the following people for their assistance with this assessment:

- Edwina Laidlaw (Glossop Town Planning) for providing site access and project information.

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1 Introduction

Abzeco was commissioned by Glossop Town Planning in October 2025 to prepare a Biodiversity Assessment Report to inform the proposed development of a school and sports fields over part of the subject land located at 710 Mount Ridley Road, Mickleham (Figure 2). The development is noted to be in its preliminary stages. As such concept plans provided by Glossop on the 3rd of December 2025 have been used to develop this report (Blur undated).

This report is intended to investigate the native flora and fauna values within the subject land, the current site conditions, and how planning and policy implications relate to native flora and fauna.

1.1 Background and Planning Context

The subject land, located at 710 Mount Ridley Road, Mickleham Victoria is within Hume City Council, the Melbourne Water Catchment Management Authority, and the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion (Figure 1). The study area is entirely covered by the Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) and is located within the bounds of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The study area is not covered by any additional planning overlays.

The total site area is greater than 0.4 hectares, therefore the application must address Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation) of the Hume Planning Scheme should any native vegetation be proposed for removal.

1.2 Study Area and Surrounding Context

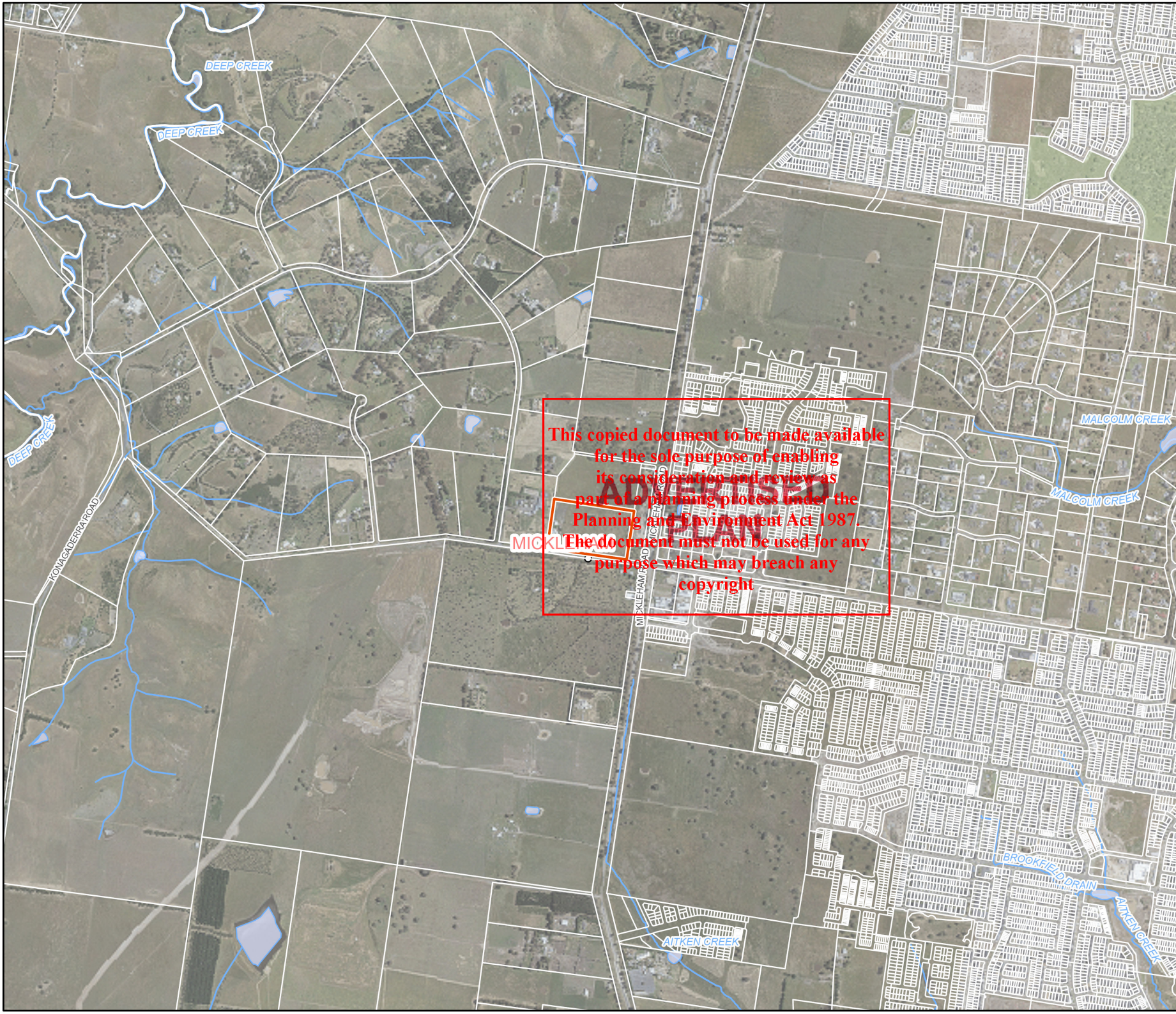
The subject land is situated approximately 30 km north of Melbourne in a landscape that consists of large rural and semi-rural properties to the north, south and west. Areas east of the subject land and within the Urban Growth Boundary have become highly urbanised in recent years (Figures 1 and 2). The subject land is approximately 13.5 ha, of which approximately 1 ha supports an existing domestic area including a house, associated outbuildings, sheds, stables, and storage of portable buildings. The remaining 12.5 ha consists of exotic pastures and several small dams.

The subject land is relatively flat and featureless. There are no crests, ridges, hilltops, or slopes exceeding 20% on the property. The study area does not feature any substantial areas of erosion. There are no natural waterways or drainage lines within the study area. The nearest named waterway is the Malcolm Creek, located approximately 1.5 km east of the study area.

For the purpose of this report the study area was considered to be the proposed development footprint, and the vegetation associated with the northern edge of Mount Ridley Road where it borders the subject land.

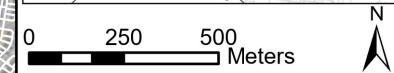
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- Study Area
- Parks and Conservation Reserves
- Waterbody
- Watercourse

Figure 1
Location of Study Area
710 Mt Ridley Road, Mickleham

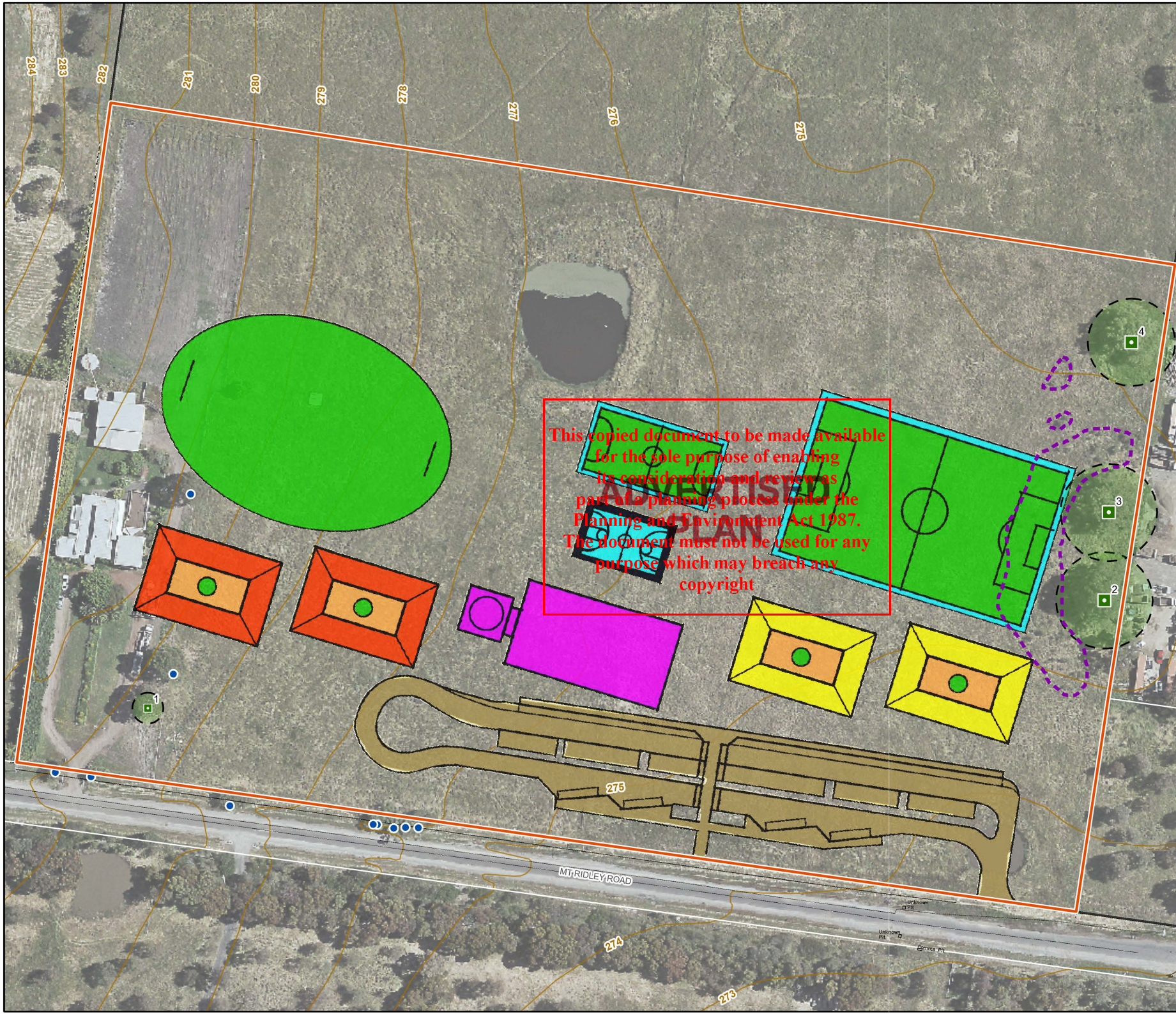


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Note: Location of property boundaries, watercourse, roads and topography indicative only.

Unit 2, 10 Mirra Court, Bundoora
Victoria 3083. Ph 03 9431 5444
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- Study Area
- Eucalypt Regrowth - Less than 10 years old (Exempt from Permit Requirements 52.17-7)
- Notional Root Zone (Indigenous Trees Only)
- Large Indigenous Tree
- Small Indigenous Tree
- Planted Australian Native Tree
- Contour (1m)

Figure 2
Development Plans
710 Mt Ridley Road, Mickleham



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2 Methods

The following resources were reviewed as part of the biodiversity assessment:

- The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) for matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act; DCCEEW 2025).
- The DELWP Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) tool (DEECA 2025b) and NatureKit (DEECA 2025b) for modelled data for Location categories (1, 2 and 3), habitat importance mapping for rare and threatened flora and fauna, and the modelled extent of current and historic Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs).
- EVC benchmarks for descriptions and characteristics of each bioregion (DEECA 2025c).
- The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) for previously documented records of flora and fauna in the locality (DEECA 2025d).
- BioSites, wetlands and any sites of significance studies and publicly available reports.
- Aerial imagery to determine habitat extent and linkages.
- Relevant legislation and government policy applicable to the subject site including:
 - The VicPlan Maps Online (DTP 2025a) and VicPlan (DTP 2025b) for the zoning and overlays relevant to the study area.
 - The Guidelines (DEECA 2025f) and other explanatory documents relating to measuring value of native vegetation (DELWP 2017a), the Assessor's Handbook (DEECA 2025h), Applying and Evidencing (DEECA 2023) and relevant planning permit exemptions (DELWP 2017b) and,
 - The latest *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* Threatened Lists (DEECA 2025g).

2.1 Field Assessment

A field assessment was conducted on 10 November 2025. The entirety of the study area was traversed on foot, and a list of observed vascular flora species was compiled, with notes made of any incidental observations of any rare or threatened species or their habitat.

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) were determined using modelled pre-1750s and extant EVC mapping and published descriptions (DEECA 2025b, 2025c). The extent of native vegetation, domestic areas and prior vegetation clearance within the study area was mapped using ArcGIS version 10 and FieldMaps™ software, with GPS accuracy of +/-3 metres.

2.2 Nomenclature and Taxonomy

Scientific and common names of flora and fauna follow the determinations of Walsh and Stajsic (2007), the Flora of Victoria Online (VicFlora 2025) and the VBA (DEECA 2025d). Names of plants are generally introduced in-text by use of the common name followed by the scientific name, and subsequently only referred to by the common name.

Where an asterisk (*) appears in-text as a prefix to all scientific names (flora and fauna), this indicates the entity to be introduced to Australia. A hash (#) prior to a plant scientific name denotes those species native to Australia or Victoria but non-indigenous to the study area or to the relevant vegetation type.

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2.3 Biodiversity Assessments Under the Guidelines 2017

Clause 52.17 of the Victorian Planning Provisions and the Victorian *Guidelines for the removal, destruction and lopping of native vegetation* (the Guidelines) are publicly available documents covering regulatory and technical requirements of assessing applications that propose to impact native vegetation. The NVR tool (DEECA 2025a) provides additional supporting information to assess applications that may impact native vegetation.

In accordance with the *Guidelines* (DEECA 2025f), native vegetation is defined by two categories (patches and scattered trees) as outlined below.

Patch

A patch of native vegetation is either (DEECA 2025f):

- An area of vegetation where at least 25% of the total perennial understory plant cover is native;
- Any area with three (3) or more native canopy trees where the drip line of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy; or,
- Any mapped wetland included in the Current wetlands map (DEECA 2025f; 2025h).

The extent of patches (in hectares) is determined during a field assessment.

Scattered Trees

A native canopy tree that does not form part of a patch.

Scattered trees are assigned to two size classes (Large or Small) based on the Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) benchmark in the applicable EVG (DEECA 2025f). Trees greater than or equal to the Large tree benchmark DBH are considered Large, while trees below the Large tree benchmark DBH are classified as Small.

A Large tree is assigned a default extent of 0.070 hectares (15 metre radius), while a Small tree has a default extent of 0.031 hectares (10 metre radius) (DEECA 2025f; 2025h).

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2.3.1 Assessment Pathways

An application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must be classified as being in the Basic, Intermediate or Detailed assessment pathway, as defined in the Guidelines (DEECA 2025f). The assessment pathway is determined by the modelled Location category (1, 2 or 3) and extent of native vegetation proposed for removal. The total extent is the combined area in hectares of patches and any scattered trees. The applicable assessment pathway is used to determine the level of information required to adequately inform the biodiversity and planning application assessment process (DEECA 2025f).

Determination of the assessment pathway based on relevant criteria is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Assessment pathway matrix (DEECA 2025f)

Extent of native vegetation	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3
Less than 0.5 hectares and not including any large trees	Basic	Intermediate	Detailed
Less than 0.5 hectares and including one or more large trees	Intermediate	Intermediate	Detailed
0.5 hectares or more	Detailed	Detailed	Detailed

Note: *The determination of the assessment pathway includes any other native vegetation that was approved to be removed, or that was removed without the required approvals, on the same property or on contiguous land in the same ownership as the applicant, in the five-year period before the application for a permit is lodged (DEECA 2025f).

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The three assessment pathways are defined according to the potential impact on biodiversity in Victoria (DEECA 2025f):

- **Basic** – limited impacts on biodiversity;
- **Intermediate** – could impact on large trees, endangered EVCs, and sensitive wetlands and coastal areas; and,
- **Detailed** – could impact on large trees, endangered EVCs, sensitive wetlands and coastal areas and could significantly impact on habitat for rare or threatened species.

The three Location categories are shown on the NVR tool (DEECA 2025a) and indicate the potential risk to biodiversity from removing a small amount of native vegetation (DEECA 2025f). The Location categories have the following attributes:

- **Location 3** – includes locations where the removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation could have a significant impact on habitat for a rare or threatened species;
- **Location 2** – includes locations that are mapped as endangered EVCs and/or sensitive wetlands and coastal areas (section 3.2.1) and are not included in Location 3; and,
- **Location 1** – includes all remaining locations in Victoria not included within Location categories 2 or 3.

2.3.2 Native Vegetation Offsets

Offsets are required for any approved removal of native vegetation and are stipulated as a condition on the relevant planning permit. The Guidelines define two types of offsets, General and Species. General offsets are required for all approved removal of native vegetation. Species offsets apply under circumstances where there is proportional impact of the removal of native vegetation on modelled habitat for a rare or threatened species (DEECA 2025f). Where both General and Species offsets are specified, both must be achieved to meet offset requirements.

In addition to General and Species offsets, the offset requirement includes the protection of at least one Large tree for every Large tree being removed. The requirement applies to Large trees in patches as well as scattered trees.

DEECA calculate the offset requirements based on the native vegetation condition scores (from the field-based habitat hectare assessment or the NVR tool) and modelled biodiversity information. The results are summarised in the Native Vegetation Removal Report (NVRR) generated from the NVR tool.

An application to remove native vegetation must include an offset strategy that identifies the required offset is available and how the offset will be secured if a permit is granted. Offsets can be secured by obtaining a credit extract from the Native Vegetation Credit Register or establishing and registering a new offset site (first or third party).

2.4 Limitations

Biodiversity assessments generally do not capture all flora and fauna species present in the study area. Spring is an optimal period for conducting ecological work given that many flora species are flowering, and show features required for identification. All species encountered supported adequate material for positive identification to at least genus level.

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Targeted surveys for rare or threatened flora and fauna species, a detailed floristic inventory of the entirety of the subject land, and detailed zoological survey comprising a range of techniques over different seasons were not conducted, as these tasks were beyond the scope of works.

Despite the stated limitations, the assessment was considered suitable to ascertain the extent and condition of the native vegetation and provide an indication of species diversity in the study area. The limitations are not considered to have significantly affected the overall results of the assessment.

3 Flora Results

3.1 Description of Vegetation

A total of 69 vascular flora species were identified throughout the study area, this included 16 indigenous species, 50 exotic species, and 3 species native to Australia but not indigenous to the study area (Appendix 1).

The subject land is modelled as having historically supported vegetation comprising of Plains Grassland - EVC 55 (DEECA 2025b). Considering the landscape context, geology and large remnant River Red-gum's (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) located along the eastern fenceline of the study area (Photo 5) this modelling is likely to be accurate. In its current condition, the majority of the vegetation within the study area no longer bares any resemblance to any recognised EVC.

The vegetation within the study area is almost wholly exotic resulting from historic management, agricultural practices and invasion by weeds. Exotic grasses form the majority of the vegetation across the study area (Photo 3), this includes common pasture species such as Cock's-foot (**Dactylis glomerata*) and Toowoomba Canary-grass (**Phalaris aquatica*). The pastures and paddocks also support a high coverage of CaLP Act-listed weeds such as Chilean Needle-grass (**Nassella neesiana*; Photo 4) and a range of other weed species common to agricultural areas. The study area supports four species considered to be Weeds of National Significance (WONS; Appendix 1).

Native species within the study area occur as isolated plants including Wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma* spp.; Photo 5), Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*), Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*), and Slender Speedwell (*Veronica gracilis*; Photo 6), and Rushes (*Juncus* sp). As a proportion of total perennial vegetation cover, it is estimated that native species would comprise < 5% of all vegetation within the study area.

Four River Red-gum's were recorded within the study area; three of these trees are large old trees situated along the eastern boundary of the subject land. In addition to these mature trees there is clear evidence of a recruitment event characterised by a few dozen same-aged saplings approximately 2.5 m in height. Three other Eucalypt species were recorded within the study area, Southern Blue-gum (#*Eucalyptus globulus*), Bald Island Marlock (#*Eucalyptus conferruminata*), and Coastal Moort (#*Eucalyptus utilis*). None of these species are indigenous to the study area and they occur as planted individuals (Photo 2).

The domestic area situated in the western side of the study area supports a variety of ornamental species. These were largely ignored as all the vegetation was noted to be exotic and planted for amenity purposes in a garden setting (Photo 10).

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Photo 1: Roadside vegetation between Mount Ridley Road and the subject land (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 2: Planted non-indigenous Eucalypts along Mount Ridley Road (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 3: The pastures within the subject land are almost entirely exotic (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 4: Chilean Needle-grass constitutes the majority of grass pictured here (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 5: Native grasses such as this Wallaby-grass occur as isolated individuals scattered across the study area (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 6: Indigenous herbs such as this Slender Speedwell *Veronica gracilis* (purple flower) were recorded growing amongst a matrix of exotic species (Abzeco 10/11/2025)

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Photo 7: The study area supports several remnant Redgums *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 8: Fringing some of the mature Redgums is a cohort of saplings (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 9: All dams and waterbodies within the study area are artificial (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 10: The existing domestic area features a number of commonly planted ornamental species (Abzeco 10/11/2025)

3.2 Patches of Native Vegetation

In accordance with *the Guidelines*, three patches of native vegetation were recorded within the study area (DEECA 2025f). Patches are referred to as Habitat Zones 1, 2, and 3 (Figure 3).

Habitat Zones 1, 2, and 3

These habitat zones were considered as a patch as at least 25% of the total perennial understorey plant cover was native in accordance with *the Guidelines* (DEECA 2025f).

The proportion of native vegetation in each of these patches consists almost entirely of regenerating Redgums which have arisen from a single recruitment event. Other native species are effectively absent from each of the Habitat Zones.

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**Photo 11: Habitat Zone 1 (group of saplings on right), and Habitat Zone 2 (group of saplings on left)
(Abzeco 10/11/2025)**



Photo 12: Habitat Zone 3 (Abzeco 10/11/2025)

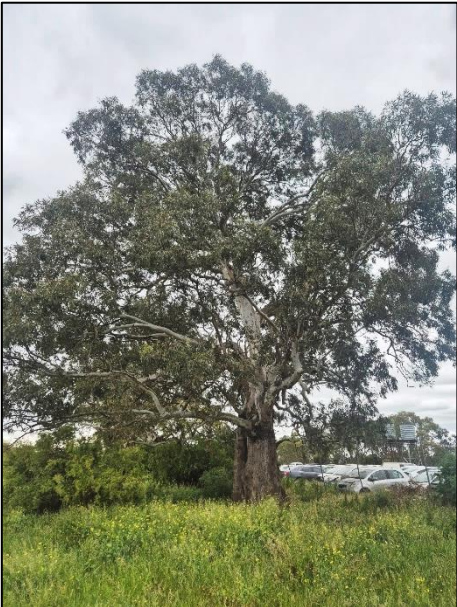
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3.3 Scattered Trees

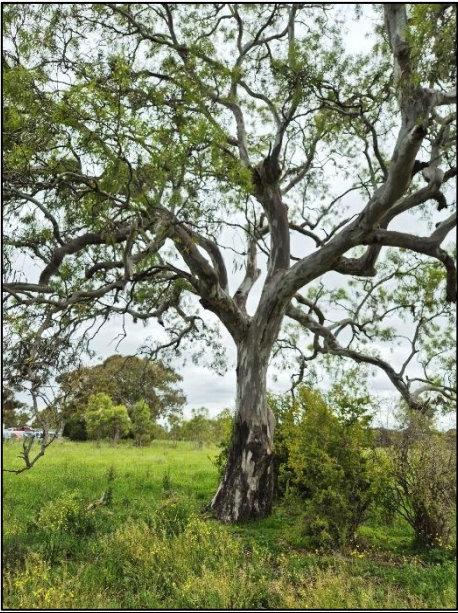
The study area supports four scattered indigenous trees in accordance with Clause 52.17 and the *Guidelines* (DEECA 2025f; Figure 3).

Table 2: Indigenous scattered trees recorded within the study area

Tree Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	DBH (cm)	Photo
1	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Redgum	40	
2	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Redgum	153	

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Tree Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	DBH (cm)	Photo
3	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Redgum	>200	
4	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Redgum	113	

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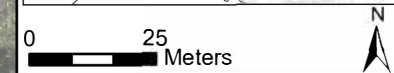
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- Study Area
- Eucalypt Regrowth - Less than 10 years old (Exempt from Permit Requirements 52.17-7)
- Notional Root Zone (Indigenous Trees Only)
- Large Scattered Indigenous Tree
- Small Scattered Indigenous Tree
- Planted Australian Native Tree
- Contour (1m)

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Figure 3
Assessed Native Vegetation
710 Mt Ridley Road, Mickleham



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Scale: 1:1,500 (A4)
GDA 2020 VicGrid
Note: Location of property boundaries, watercourse, roads and topography indicative only

3.4 Significant Flora Species

No threatened flora species indigenous to the study were recorded during the site assessment. Furthermore, given the history of disturbance and agricultural practices, and the level of modification and weed invasion within the study area it is considered highly unlikely that any threatened flora species would be present.

VBA Search Results

A search of the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) for previous records of EPBC Act and FFG Act-listed flora within a 5 km radius of the study area yielded a total of 19 threatened species having been recorded from the search area (Appendix 3; DEECA 2025d). This includes 5 species native to Australia but not necessarily indigenous to the study area, several of which are commonly planted for amenity purposes (e.g. Large-fruit Yellow-gum #*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *megalocarpa* and Giant Honey-myrtle #*Melaleuca armillaris* subsp. *armillaris*).

Of the remaining 14 species, several are known to occur from grassland and grassy woodland habitats that once would have covered the study area, these include:

- Matted Flax Lily *Dianella amoena* listed as endangered under the EPBC Act and critically endangered under the FFG Act (last recorded 2025);
- River Swamp Wallaby-grass *Amphibromus fluitans* listed as vulnerable the EPBC Act (last recorded 2020);
- Small Golden Moths *Diuris basaltica* listed as endangered under the EPBC Act and critically endangered under the FFG Act (last recorded 2024);
- Tough Scurf-pea listed as endangered under the FFG Act (last recorded 2017); and,
- Basalt Peppergrass *Lepidium hyssanifolium* s.s. listed as endangered under both the EPBC and FFG Acts (last recorded 2018).

Historically, many of the species listed in the search results may have occurred within the subject land and study area, however, given the land-use history and current site conditions, it is considered highly unlikely that any threatened flora species would now occur within the study area.

EPBC PMST Search Results

Additionally, the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) was queried for threatened species, the resulting report flags eighteen threatened flora species or their habitat as having the potential to occur within a 5 km radius of the study area (DCCEE 2025; Appendix 5). These 18 species included a number of species known from grassland and grassy woodland ecosystems such as:

- Large-fruited Groundsel *Senecio macrocarpus* listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act;
- Clover Glycine *Glycine latrobeana* listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act; and,
- Spiny Riceflower *Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens* listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.

Historically, many of the species listed in the search results may have occurred within the subject land and study area, however, given the land-use history and current site conditions, it is considered highly unlikely that any threatened flora species would now occur within the study area.

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3.5 Determination of Listed Ecological Communities

EPBC Listed Ecological Communities

The EPBC Act PMST was queried for listed ecological communities, the resulting report flags four threatened ecological communities as having the potential to occur within a 5 km radius of the study area (DCCEEW 2025):

- 1) *Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia* (Endangered);
- 2) *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* (Critically Endangered);
- 3) *Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain* (Critically Endangered);
- 4) *Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain* (Critically Endangered).

The native vegetation within the study area does not meet the characteristics and condition thresholds to qualify as any of the listed ecological communities.

FFG Threatened Ecological Communities

No ecological communities listed under the FFG Act were identified within the study area.

4 Fauna Results

4.1 Habitat Quality Classification

Habitat quality classification

Low: Habitat areas classed as being of low quality are usually fragmented and have lost most structural elements such as tussock/mummock forming grasses or sedges, inter-tussock spaces, understorey shrubs, logs, rocks and hollow-bearing trees. Connectivity with higher quality patches may be limited or absent. Such patches are generally weed infested, have little or no natural regeneration and remaining indigenous species are under threat from invasive exotic species. No species of conservation significance are known or likely to occur there.

Moderate: Some structural elements have been lost, and invasive species may not be dominant over indigenous species but pose a significant threat. There is some connectivity with adjacent habitat of equal or greater quality. The patch may provide suitable habitat for fauna of conservation significance known or likely to occur in the area.

High: Most structural elements for fauna are present, understorey species are generally healthy, and most life forms may be present. The patch is part of a mosaic of reasonably contiguous vegetation with connectivity to other areas of habitat. The patch provides suitable habitat for fauna of conservation significance known or likely to occur in the area, even if dominated by weeds.

4.1 Fauna Habitat within the study area

Pastures

The habitat within the study area is almost entirely low quality. In its state of modification and disturbance the study area lacks most habitat components that would have been historically present. While the pastures continue to offer structural complexity that includes well-formed

tussock grasses (Photo 18), inter-tussock spaces, some embedded rock (Photo 17) and variable microtopography, native vegetation is effectively absent from these areas.

While some surface rock was noted the total coverage is minimal. It is unclear whether this low cover of surface rock is natural or has resulted from historical de-rocking to improve conditions for grazing. Clear evidence of de-rocking may include the presence of drystone walls and piles of basalt rocks, neither of which were visible in the immediate area.



Photo 13: The study area continues to feature embedded surface rock (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 14: Although predominantly exotic, the pastures provide a tussock forming grasses as habitat (Abzeco 10/11/2025)

Artificial Waterbodies

Several artificial waterbodies are likely to provide habitat for a range of native fauna species including amphibians and waterfowl. None of the waterbodies appeared to support complex aquatic or emergent vegetation. The edges of the dams are fringed by predominantly exotic vegetation and have been subject to significant pugging by livestock.



Photo 15: The study area supports several small farm dams from which common native frog species were heard calling (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 16: The study area supports several small farm dams from which common native frog species were heard calling (Abzeco 10/11/2025)

Large Trees

Several large old Redgums occur within the subject land (Photo 21 and 22). These trees were noted to contain a variety of hollows that likely support a variety of native animals including mammals and birds.

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Photo 17: Large old trees were noted to support a number of hollows suitable to support a variety of native animals' species (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 18: Large old trees were noted to support a number of hollows suitable to support a variety of native animals' species (Abzeco 10/11/2025)

Exotic Vegetation

Exotic vegetation associated with the domestic area is likely to support a variety of common bird and mammal species.



Photo 19: Exotic ornamental vegetation features prominently around the domestic area on the western side of the study area (Abzeco 10/11/2025)



Photo 20: Exotic ornamental vegetation features prominently around the domestic area on the western side of the study area (Abzeco 10/11/2025)

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4.2 Significant Fauna Species

No EPBC Act or FFG Act-listed fauna species were recorded during the field assessment.

4.2.1 VBA Search Results

A search of the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) for previous records of EPBC Act and FFG Act-listed fauna within a 5 km radius of the study area yielded a total of 23 threatened species having been recorded within this search area (Appendix 4).

These records include but are not limited to:

- Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis* listed as vulnerable under both the EPBC and FFG Acts (last recorded 2018);

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- Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act (last recorded 2023);
- Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana* listed as vulnerable under both the EPBC and FFG Acts (last recorded 2024); and,
- Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri* listed as endangered under the FFG Act (last recorded 2022).

Additional species listed in the 5 km search radius are species that have not been recorded for many years, and highly mobile species that may occasionally fly over or use the site for foraging but are unlikely to be solely reliant on the study area. These records include but are not limited to:

- Plains Wanderer *Pedionomus toquatus* listed as critically endangered under the EPBC and FFG;
- Swift Parrot *Lathamnus discolor* listed as critically endangered under the EPBC and FFG Acts;
- White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* listed as vulnerable under the EPBC and FFG Acts; and,
- Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata* listed as vulnerable under the EPBC and FFG Acts.

4.2.2 EPBC PMST Search Results

Additionally, the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) was queried for threatened species, the resulting report flags thirty-one threatened fauna species or their habitat as having the potential to occur within a 5 km radius of the study area (DCCEE 2025; Appendix 6). Species in the search results largely include migratory birds, fish, and species with habitat that does not occur within the study area.

Notable species included in the search results include:

- Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon *Tympanocryptis pinguicolla* listed as critically endangered under the EPBC and FFG Acts; and,
- Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and endangered under the FFG Act.

The other species resulting from the query were either captured within the VBA search or are considered unlikely to be resident within the study area, or solely reliant upon it, or no suitable habitat for these species identified within the study area.

4.2.3 Notable Threatened Species

Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana*

While the study area is highly degraded, the habitat components present may continue to provide suitable habitat for threatened species. Of particular note is the potential for Golden Sun Moth to occur within the study area. While that natural habitat of Golden Sun Moth typically includes areas with at least 10 % cover of Wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma* spp., the species is now known to have adapted to Chilean Needle-grass *Nassella neesiana* as a novel food source allowing for the species to persist in areas dominated by Chilean Needle-grass (Brown *et al*



Photo 21: Golden Sun Moth (Alistair Smith)

2012; Richter *et al* 2013). Numerous records of Golden Sun Moth are known from within 5 km of the study area. Records available from the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA 2025) from 2019 include records approximately:

- 320 m west of the study area;
- 530 m north of the study area; and,
- 570 m east of the study area.

In accordance with the significant impact guidelines, small or fragmented habitats of less than 10 ha are more likely to suffer significant impacts from loss, degradation and fragmentation. Given the high coverage of Chilean Needle-grass across the study area and numerous recent records from the area it is reasonable to assume that the species may occur within the study area. The presence or absence of Golden Sun Moth can only be ascertained with targeted surveys undertaken in accordance with the published guidelines (DEWHA 2009a).

Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*

The dams that occur scattered across the property represent suitable, albeit of low to moderate quality habitat for the EPBC Act-listed Growling Grass Frog. Growling Grass Frog can be found in a variety of waterbodies including slow-moving creeks and streams, lagoons, swamps, lakes, farm dams, irrigation channels and disused quarries (DEECA 2025i). Sites that feature still or slow-moving water with a high proportion of floating, emergent and submerged vegetation (Clemens and Gillespie 2012) are considered to be suitable for use by Growling Grass Frog. The smaller of the two water bodies (Photo 19) within the study area is expected to be impacted by the proposed development.



Photo 22: Growling Grass Frog (Alistair Smith)

In accordance with the significant impact guidelines, any viable population is considered to be an important population for the persistence and recovered of the species (DEWHA 2009b) The presence or absence of Growling Grass Frog can only be ascertained with targeted surveys undertaken in accordance with the published guidelines (DEWHA 2009b).

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Latham's Snipe typically shelter during the day near a variety of waterbodies including urban wetlands and waterbodies, saltmarshes, and the edges of creeks. Additionally, the species may also be found roosting amongst crops and pastures (DCCEEW 2024a). While roosting Latham's Snipe typically seek refuge amongst dense vegetation including sedges, grasses, reeds, rushes, and lignum. The dams and pastures that cover much of the study area are considered to be suitable roosting habitat for Latham's Snipe, particularly low-lying areas that may be prone to waterlogging and inundation. The presence or absence of Latham's Snipe can only be ascertained with targeted surveys undertaken in accordance with the published guidelines (DSE 2017).

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Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri*

Lowland populations of Tussock Skink are typically found in grass lands with little to no tree cover (Wilson and Swan 2021). The species is usually found in association with fallen timber, surface rocks and grass tussocks which provide shelter as well as basking sites (Turner 2012; Robertson and Coventry 2019).



Photo 23: Tussock Skink *Pseudemoia pagenstecheri* (Photo Credit: Jules Farquhar)

Although the Tussock Skink is known from relatively undisturbed sites dominated by indigenous grasses (e.g. EHP 2014; McCutcheon and Byrne 2014), it also occurs in areas dominated by exotic vegetation, indicating that site occupation can be independent of floristic species composition and is likely influenced to a greater extent by habitat structure (Sullivan 1999; Turner 2012).

While the study area is dominated by exotic vegetation, the habitat structure is considered to be suitable for Tussock Skink. The presence or absence of Tussock Skink can only be ascertained with targeted surveys undertaken in accordance with the published guidelines, though in situations where suitable habitat is present this species may be considered present.

Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar*

Within Victoria, the species is largely restricted to temperate grassland habitats in the central and southern parts of the state, sheltering in grass tussocks, soil cracks, and spider burrows, and under rocks and woody debris (Smith and Robertson 1999). Although Striped Legless Lizard has been reported to occupy relatively undisturbed native grasslands dominated by tussock-forming grasses such as Kangaroo Grass and Spear-grasses (Williams and Kukolic 1991; Osborne *et al.* 1993), the species is able to occupy secondary and exotic-dominated grasslands largely independent of species composition, and past management may play a greater role in predicting occupancy than floristics (e.g., Dorrough and Ash 1999).

No records of Striped-legless Lizard within 5 km of the subject land are recorded in the VBA. While the habitat structure may be suitable for the species in small parts, it is ultimately considered unlikely that it would occur within the study area given the level of modification and near total dominance of exotic vegetation. However, the presence or absence of Striped Legless Lizard can only be ascertained with targeted surveys undertaken in accordance with the published guidelines (DSEWPC 2011).

Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon *Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*

The Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon is known mainly from the north (Sunbury) and west of Melbourne towards Geelong, where it occurs in basalt plains grasslands (Robertson and Coventry 2019). The species is highly threatened and listed as Critically Endangered under both the FFG Act and EPBC Act. Until 2023 there had been no confirmed sightings of the species since 1969. Little is known of the species biology and ecology, much of what is understood is derived from studies on closely related species from ACT and New South Wales (Robertson and Coventry 2019). Given the level of modification and near total dominance of exotic vegetation, it is considered unlikely that the Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon would occur within the study area. However, the presence or absence of Grassland Earless Dragon can only be ascertained with targeted surveys undertaken in accordance with the published guidelines (DCCEE 2024b).

5 Proposed Impacts to Native Vegetation

5.1 Proposed removal of canopy trees

Under the current design scenario, no indigenous canopy trees are expected to be removed. Minor ($\leq 10\%$) encroachment into the Notional Root Zone (NRZ) is expected for Tree 3 (Figure 2).

As design plans are refined, should encroachment of NRZ's be $> 10\%$, these trees may require assessment by a suitably qualified arborist to determine whether they will remain viable post-works. Ultimately, moderate to major encroachment may result in the loss of trees and require offsetting.

5.2 Proposed removal of patches

Habitat zone 3

Partial removal of habitat zone 3 is expected to result from the development. This vegetation consists of Red Gum saplings and is regrowth less than 10 years old (Figure 2). It is considered exempt from Clause 52.17 (DELWP 2017b); as such, this patch of vegetation was not scored. Habitat zones 1 and 2 are not impacted under the current design scenario, however these patches also consist solely of Red Gum regrowth and would also be exempt regardless.

5.3 Offset Requirements

Under the current design scenario, no native vegetation offsets are required.

5.4 Avoidance and Minimisation Statement

Current concept designs avoid all non-exempt native vegetation in accordance with The Guidelines (DEECA 2025f). Design plans should be refined and finalised with the intention to avoid impacts to native vegetation. Alongside this report, ArcGIS Shapefiles of indigenous trees and NRZ's have been provided as a means to guide future development plans.

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6 Discussion

The key biodiversity protection legislation and regulations potentially relevant to the study area are the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act), the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act), and the Hume City Council planning scheme (DTP 2025b). The *Guidelines* (DEECA 2025f) is the principal document that informs biodiversity regulation under the planning scheme.

The implications and requirements associated with the relevant legislation are summarised below.

6.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the primary Commonwealth legislation for environment protection. Under the EPBC Act, an action will require approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment if it has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of National Environmental Significance (NES) and it is not subject to certain specified exceptions.

Matters of NES trigger the Commonwealth's environmental assessment and approval responsibilities. These matters are: World Heritage properties, National Heritage Places, Ramsar wetlands of international importance, nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities, migratory species protected under international agreements, the Commonwealth marine environment, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, nuclear actions and water resources (coal seam gas development and large coal mining development).

If a project is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of NES, a referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is required. If the Minister considers it likely that a proposed action may have a significant impact on matters of NES, the action may be considered 'controlled' and requires a detailed assessment and the grant of a permit to proceed (DOE 2013).

Implications:

No federally listed species or communities were recorded within the study area, however suitable habitat for at least three EPBC Act-listed species was considered to be present within the subject land, these being:

- Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* (Vulnerable under the EPBC Act);
- Golden Sun Moth *Synemona plana* (Vulnerable under the EPBC Act); and
- Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis* (Vulnerable under the EPBC Act).

Targeted surveys for these species would be required to determine their presence within the study area. If EPBC Act-listed species were determined to be present, referral and approval by the Commonwealth Minister may be required.

6.2 Environmental Effects Act 1978 (EE Act)

The Victorian Environment Effects Act 1978 provides for assessment of proposed projects (works) that are capable of having a significant effect/impact on the environment.

Implications:

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In this instance, while the site is greater than 10 ha, the EE Act is not relevant to the proposal as the site does not support an endangered EVC, does not support 1-5% of the known remaining habitat or population of a threatened species and is not connected to a Ramsar wetland, aquatic, estuarine, or marine ecosystem. Furthermore, the proposal will not affect the health, safety or well-being of a human community as a result of hazardous emissions and will not result in greenhouse gas emissions exceeding 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum.

6.3 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act)

The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) is the primary State legislation for the protection of native plants, animals and ecological communities on public land and water in Victoria. Species and ecological communities can be listed as threatened under the Act based on determination by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee. Threatening processes may also be listed.

Vegetation communities, plants, animals and other taxa may be listed under the FFG Act if they are known to be in decline or under the threat of extinction. Listing is intended to protect threatened taxa or communities from further threats to their survival on public land in Victoria. Threatened taxa are listed under Section 10 (Schedule 2) of the Act. Whilst not immediately threatened, a number of species, genera and families of plants are protected under Section 46 of the Act to protect them from unauthorised clearing, harvesting and collection on public land.

A permit under the FFG Act is required to take (kill, injure, disturb or collect) Restricted Use Protected Flora (under Sections 47 and 47A), Generally Protected Flora (under Sections 47B and 47C) and listed fish (under Section 52) from public land. A permit is required to take components of listed ecological communities on public land.

Implications:

No ecological communities or species indigenous to the study area and listed under the FFG Act were recorded on site. As the study area and land tenure is private the FFG Act does not apply. The FFG Act only applies to land owned or managed by a public authority. An FFG Act permit is therefore unlikely to be required.

6.4 Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act)

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (the CaLP Act) seeks to protect Victorian land and water resources from degrading processes. Under the Act, Landowners are required to conserve soil, protect water resources, eradicate 'Controlled' and 'Prohibited' weeds, eradicate pest animals and avoid actions that may result in land degradation on neighbouring properties. In certain instances, landowners may be served with a Land Management Notice that may prohibit or regulate land use or specify management actions required to be undertaken on their property.

Implications:

Seven noxious weed species listed under the CaLP Act were recorded within the study area (Appendix 1).

Monitoring and control actions should be conducted during and after any construction to ensure that all existing noxious weeds are managed, and any additional noxious weeds are prevented from colonising or spreading within the site. Landowners have a legal responsibility under the Act

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to control declared noxious weeds and ensure spreading of weeds is limited and managed during construction works.

6.5 Wildlife Act 1975 and Wildlife Regulations 2002

The *Wildlife Act 1975* and *Wildlife Regulations 2002* is the primary legislation in Victoria providing for the management and protection of wildlife. The objective of the Act is to regulate the conduct of those involved in working with wildlife and establish procedures for the protection and conservation of wildlife and prevention of species extinctions.

Implications:

The study area supports large old trees that were noted to contain numerous hollows, cracks, fissures and spouts that likely harbour native wildlife included possums and nesting birds. Additionally, much of the vegetation associated with the existing domestic area is likely to harbour possums and nesting birds.

It is likely that removal of vegetation will require pre-clearance checks to assess whether native wildlife is using the vegetation. Any persons engaged in the salvage, translocation and/or handling of native fauna during any construction works must have a management authorisation under the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

6.6 Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Guidelines 2025

In Victoria, a permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. Regulation of planning proposals with potential impacts to native vegetation is governed by Clause 12.01 (Biodiversity) and Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation) of Victorian planning schemes. Clause 52.17 references the requirements of the Victorian *Guidelines for the removal, destruction, or lopping of native vegetation* (the Guidelines, DEECA 2025f), which is an incorporated document under Clause 72.04 of all planning schemes (DTP 2025a).

In accordance with the relevant planning scheme clauses, the Guidelines seek to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DEECA 2025f).

Strategic planning plays a primary role in avoiding and minimising the impacts of uses and developments on native vegetation. In Victoria, the three-step approach for ensuring the objective of no net loss is achieved at the permit level are (DEECA 2025f):

- Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation;
- Minimise impacts on Victoria's biodiversity from the removal, destruction and lopping of native vegetation; and,
- Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

Referral of Planning Applications

The relevant responsible authorities are required to assess permit applications for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. The responsible authority is the relevant Council.

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Under Clause 66 (Referral and Notice Provisions) of planning schemes and DEECA is a recommending referral authority where one or more of the following matters is required:

- To remove, destroy or lop native vegetation in the Detailed Assessment Pathway;
- To remove, destroy or lop native vegetation if a Property Vegetation Plan applies to the site; or,
- To remove, destroy or lop native vegetation on Crown land which is occupied or managed by the responsible authority.

Implications of Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation)

Although habitat zones 1, 2, and 3 were considered to meet the thresholds of assessable native vegetation in accordance with The Guidelines (2025f), ultimately these patches are exempt from permit and offset requirements (DELWP 2017b). Four scattered indigenous trees occur within the study area. Under the current design scenario, it is unlikely works will result in the removal, destruction or lopping of these individuals.

A planning permit is required under Clause 52.17 of the Hume City Council planning scheme, to account for the incidental loss of native vegetation that occurs as scattered individuals throughout the development footprint.

Means of Achieving Offsets for Native Vegetation Loss

Under the *Guidelines* any approved removal of native vegetation is required to be offset, with the ultimate aim of achieving no net loss in the extent and quality of indigenous vegetation across Victoria (DEECA 2025f).

If required, offsets can be achieved via the protection and enhancement of existing vegetation patches, by the forfeit of rights of use over native vegetation for any purpose which may breach any copyright. The document is not to be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright. Depending upon the assessment pathway, conservation significance of vegetation to be cleared and related factors, a number of limitations and restrictions apply to offset options. These restrictions and limitations are designed to ensure that lower quality outcomes are not exchanged for high quality vegetation loss.

Offset Strategy

Under the current design scenario, no native vegetation offsets are required in relation to the proposed development.

6.7 Hume City Council Planning Scheme

The zones and overlays with ecological aspects relevant to the study area are discussed below:

6.7.1 Green Wedge Zone (GWZ)

Subdivision and Other Requirements

Implications

No ecological implications were identified to be relevant to the study area and proposed development.

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7 Conclusion and Recommendations

The following conclusions and recommendations are considered relevant to the proposed planning application:

7.1 Native Vegetation Offsets

- No assessable native vegetation is expected to be removed as part of the proposed development, subsequently there is no requirement to procure native vegetation offsets.
- As design plans evolve consideration must be given to the indigenous trees within the site. Should future designs ultimately impact these trees, native vegetation offsets will likely need to be secured.

7.2 Permits

- A planning permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation under Clause 52.17 of the Hume City Council Planning Scheme is required to account for the incidental loss of scattered native species that occur within the development footprint.

7.3 Threatened Flora, Fauna, and Ecological Communities

- No flora, fauna, or ecological communities listed under either the EPBC Act or FFG Act were recorded within the study area.
- Habitat suitable for at least three EPBC Act-listed species was recorded within the study area, these being:
 - Growling Grass Frog
 - Latham's Snipe
 - Golden Sun Moth
- The presence of these species could only be ascertained with targeted surveys in accordance with published guidelines. Referral and approval by the Commonwealth Minister under the EPBC Act 1999 may be required if EPBC Act-listed species are detected within the study area.
- No flora or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act were recorded with the study area, nor are any considered likely to occur within it.
- Pre-works inspections for fauna by a qualified zoologist/ecologist are likely to be required before the removal of woody vegetation (including exotic vegetation associated with the existing domestic area). Additionally, given the likelihood of reptile and amphibian species, including the FFG Act-listed Tussock Skink, supervision of the removal of the top 10 – 20 cm of soil during the early stages of construction may be required to salvage and translocate native fauna to areas that are outside the development footprint.

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7.4 Land Management

- The colonisation and spread of all *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) listed noxious weeds must be controlled during and post construction;
- The spread of weeds during construction should be managed through appropriate hygiene protocols for machinery, vehicles, and personnel;

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- Any landscaping and revegetation works should use plants that are indigenous to the Hume City Council and/or the local provenance.

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Appendix 1. Flora species recorded within the study area

Legend:

- * – Introduced/exotic species;
- # – native to Australia or Victoria but non-indigenous to the study area;
- W – Weed of National Significance (WoNS);
- C – Weed listed as regionally controlled under the CaLP Act;
- R – Weed listed as regionally restricted under the CaLP Act.
- P – Weed listed as regionally prohibited under the CaLP Act.

Origin	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
	<i>Acaena echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr	
*	<i>Acetosella vulgaris</i>	Sheep Sorrel	
	<i>Amphibromus neesii</i>	Swamp Wallaby-grass	
*	<i>Anthoxanthom odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal	
*	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Capeweed	
*	<i>Avena barbata</i>	Bearded Oat	
*	<i>Brassica fruticulosa</i>	Twiggy Turnip	
*	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Great Brome	
*	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome	
*	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	C
	<i>Crassula sieberiana</i>	Australian Stonecrop	
*	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Artichoke Thistle	C
*	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Drain Flat sedge	
*	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's foot	
*	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Panic Veldt-grass	
*	<i>Ehrharta longiflora</i>	Annual Veldt-grass	
	<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Nodding Saltbush	
	<i>Epilobium hirtigeum</i>	Hairy Willow-herb	
*	<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musky Heron's-bill	
	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Redgum	
#	<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i>	Bald Island Marlock	
#	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Southern Blue-gum	
#	<i>Eucalyptus utilis</i>	Coastal Moort	
*	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaf Geranium	
	<i>Geranium retrorsum</i>	Grassland Crane's-bill	
*	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Ox-tongue	
*	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Buchan Weed	
*	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	
*	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Barley-grass	
*	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	
	<i>Juncus</i> sp.	Rush	
	<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>	Common Blown-grass	
	<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey Cudweed	
*	<i>Lepidium africanum</i>	Common Peppergrass	

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Origin	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
*	<i>Lolium</i> sp.	Ryegrass	
*	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African Boxthorn	C, W
*	<i>Malva</i> sp.	Mallow	
*	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Burr Medic	
*	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Sweet Melilot	
	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass	
*	<i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	Red-flowered Mallow	
	<i>Muellerina eucalyptoides</i>	Creeping Mistletoe	
*	<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>	Texas Needle-grass	
*	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Chilean Needle-grass	R, W
*	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Serrated Tussock	C, W
	<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Grassland Woodsorrel	
*	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Soubsob	R
*	<i>Oxalis</i> sp.	Woodsorrel	
*	<i>Phalaris aquatic</i>	Toowoomba Canary-grass	
*	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	
*	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Blue-grass	
*	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Hogweed	
*	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual Beard-grass	
*	<i>Rhaphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish	
*	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Briar Rose	C
*	<i>Rubus anglocandicans</i>	Blackberry	C, W
	<i>Rumex brownii</i>	Slender Dock	
*	<i>Rumex</i> sp.	Dock	
	<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.	Wallaby-grass	
*	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	
*	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Rough Sow-thistle	
*	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Sow Thistle	
*	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i>	Parramatta Grass	
*	<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Clover	
*	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Subterranean Clover	
	<i>Veronica gracilis</i>	Slender Speedwell	
*	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	
*	<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Squirrel-tail Fescue	
*	<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat's-tail Fescue	

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Appendix 2. Fauna species recorded within the study area

Fauna recorded with the subject land on 10th November 2025.

Legend:

* = exotic species

Origin	Scientific Name	Common Name
Amphibians		
	<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Common Eastern Froglet
	<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted Marsh Frog
Birds		
*	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna
	<i>Anas castanea</i>	Chestnut Teal
	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	Golden-headed Cisticola
	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie
	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Welcome Swallow
	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Superb Fairy-wren
	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	Eastern Rosella
	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	White-browed Scrubwren
*	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird
Mammals		
	<i>Macropus gigantetus</i>	Eastern Grey Kangaroo
*	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	European Rabbit
*	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox

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Appendix 3. Threatened flora species recorded within 5km of the study area

Threatened flora species recorded within a 5km of the study area (DEECA 2025d).

Legend:

= native to Australia but not the study area

EPBC Act 1999

CR = critically endangered

EN = endangered

VU = vulnerable

FFG Act 1988

cr = critically endangered

en = endangered

vu = vulnerable

Origin	Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC Status	FFG Status	Count of Sightings	Last Record
#	<i>Acacia howittii</i>	Sticky Wattle		vu	1	2017
	<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass	VU		4	2020
	<i>Amphibromus pithogastrus</i>	Plump Swamp Wallaby-grass		cr	3	2016
	<i>Callitriche umbonata</i>	Winged Water-starwort		en	1	2012
#	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted Gum		vu	3	2024
	<i>Cullen tenax</i>	Tough Scurf-pea		en	1	2017
	<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily	EN	cr	184	2025
	<i>Diuris basaltica</i>	Small Golden Moths	EN	cr	1	2024
	<i>Diuris behrii</i>	Golden Cowslips		en	1	2016
	<i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i>	Bog Gum		cr	1	2017
#	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> subsp. <i>megalocarpa</i>	Large-fruit Yellow-gum		cr	2	2024
	<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> subsp. <i>sideroxylon</i>	Mugga		en	3	2024
	<i>Eucalyptus</i> X <i>studleyensis</i>	Studley Park Gum		cr	1	2022
	<i>Geranium solanderi</i> var. <i>solanderi</i> s.s.	Austral Crane's-bill		en	15	2025
	<i>Geranium</i> sp. 3	Pale-flower Crane's-bill		en	4	2021
	<i>Goodia medicaginea</i>	Western Golden-tip		en	1	2017
	<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i> s.s.	Basalt Peppercross	EN	en	1	2018
#	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> subsp. <i>armillaris</i>	Giant Honey-myrtle		en	5	2024
#	<i>Rhagodia parabolica</i>	Fragrant Saltbush		vu	9	2025

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Appendix 4. Threatened fauna species recorded within 5km of the study area

Threatened fauna species recorded within a 5km of the study area (DEECA 2025d).

Legend:

EPBC Act 1999

CR = critically endangered

EN = endangered

VU = vulnerable

FFG Act 1988

cr = critically endangered

en = endangered

vu = vulnerable

Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC Status	FFG Status	Count of Sightings	Last Record
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper		vu	1	1980
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface	VU	vu	1	1981
<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>	Plumed Egret		cr	4	2021
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck		vu	17	1981
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret		en	3	1980
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon		cr	3	2005
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	VU	vu	42	2023
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle		vu	13	2013
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	VU	vu	4	1981
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern		vu	2	1980
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	CR	cr	1	1990
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	VU	vu	6	2018
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	EN	en	1	1990
<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bent-winged Bat		cr	4	2022
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck		vu	16	2021
<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Plains-wanderer	CR	cr	2	1989
<i>Pseudemoia pagenstecheri</i>	Tussock Skink		en	20	2022
<i>Pseudophryne bibronii</i>	Brown Toadlet		en	6	1990
<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>	Southern Toadlet		en	1	1960
<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	Speckled Warbler		en	3	1978
<i>Sminthopsis crassicaudata</i>	Fat-tailed Dunnart		vu	2	1989
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	VU	vu	1	1977
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth	VU	vu	410	2024

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Appendix 5. PMST threatened flora search results

Threatened flora species or their habitats considered possible to occur within a 5km of the study area (DCCEE 2025).

Legend:

EPBC Act 1999

CR = critically endangered

EN = endangered

VU = vulnerable

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Nature of presence within search area	EPBC Status
<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	EN
<i>Diuris basaltica</i>	Small Golden Moths Orchid, Early Golden Moths	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	EN
<i>Diuris fragrantissima</i>	Sunshine Diuris, Fragrant Doubletail, White Diuris	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	EN
<i>Dodonaea procumbens</i>	Trailing Hop-bush	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine, Purple Clover	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Lachnagrostis adamsonii</i>	Adamson's Blown-grass, Adamson's Blowngrass	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
<i>Lepidium aschersonii</i>	Spiny Peppergrass	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	VU
<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i>	Basalt Pepper-grass, Peppergrass, Rubble Pepper-grass, Pepperweed	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	EN
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> subsp. <i>tricolor</i>	Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
<i>Pimelea spinescens</i> subsp. <i>spinescens</i>	Plains Rice-flower, Spiny Rice-flower, Prickly Pimelea	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	CR
<i>Prasophyllum suaveolens</i>	Fragrant Leek-orchid	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	EN
<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>	Green-striped Greenhood	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	VU
<i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoidea</i>	Button Wrinklewort	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
<i>Senecio macrocarpus</i>	Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Senecio psilocarpus</i>	Swamp Fireweed, Smooth-fruited Groundsel	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Thelymitra orientalis</i>	Hoary Sun-orchid	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	CR

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Nature of presence within search area	EPBC Status
<i>Xerochrysum palustre</i>	Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Paper Daisy	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU

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Appendix 6. PMST threatened fauna search results

Threatened fauna species or their habitats considered possible to occur within a 5km of the study area (DCCEEW 2025).

Legend:

EPBC Act 1999

CR = critically endangered

EN = endangered

VU = vulnerable

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Nature of presence within search area	EPBC Status
Birds				
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	Likely	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	CR
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	VU
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	CR
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	CR

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Nature of presence within search area	EPBC Status
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	CR
<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Plains-wanderer	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	CR
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank, Greenshank	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	EN
Fish				
<i>Nannoperca obscura</i>	Yarra Pygmy Perch	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	EN
<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Australian Grayling	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	VU
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Southern Bell Frog, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU
Insects				
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU
Mammals				
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	EN
<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	VU
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse, Pookila	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	VU
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Likely	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	VU
Reptiles				

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Nature of presence within search area	EPBC Status
<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	VU
<i>Delma impar</i>	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard	Known	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	VU
<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>	Swamp Skink, Eastern Mourning Skink	May	Species or species habitat may occur within area	EN
<i>Tympanocryptis pinguicolla</i>	Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon	Likely	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	CR

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